NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
December 12, 1997

Network Upgrade Starts December 28

When we added our 256th computer to the network last year, we outgrew our old network configuration limit of 255 addresses. The new addresses we need to install provide 16,581,375 possibilities so we won't be running out again soon. On Sunday, December 28 Computer Services will be changing the servers and on December 29, all networked computers in the building will need a new address. The address change requires 2-5 minutes per computer and will not modify any installed software. Stay tuned to the *Natural News* for full details next week.

If you have a network computer service running (such as a web server or gopher server), please email your service address to jkoeppl@fmnh.org so we can plan a smooth transition. Questions to tkrauskopf@fmnh.org or jkoeppl@fmnh.org.

Dates to Remember

President's Staff Talk -- Monday, December 15, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. in Montgomery Ward Hall

Holiday Fest -- Wednesday, December 17, 1997 at 5:00 p.m. in Stanley Field Hall

STAFF MOVIE NIGHT

Kaffeklatch needs your help in choosing movies for the Staff Movie Night. What is the Staff Movie Night? This is brand new acitivty for staff in 1998. Every Wednesday in February at 5:00 p.m., refreshments will be served, followed by a movie in James Simpson Theatre. This will offer staff and volunteers, both old and new, a chance to mingle and help each other get through the dead of winter. We are asking staff to pick one movie from each category in the questionnaire on the back page of this issue of the *Natural News.* The top choices will be shown in February. Please circle one movie from each category, and return to **Randy Scalf** in the Membership Department. Also mark whether or not you would attend the movie nights. *The deadline for submission is December 19.* Help us make Staff Movie Night a wonderful alternative to the winter blues.

CHANGE IN VENUE FOR SMOKERS

Effective today, smoking will no longer be permitted outside the south entrance, which is now the main entrance for school groups. Smoking is permitted outside the north and west entrances. When the Museum Campus opens in the spring, the appropriate areas for smoking may be reconsidered. -- Submitted by **Marilyn Martinson**

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

I was at the museum the day after Thanksgiving.....the busiest day of the year!!! My keys got locked in my car. The people working the parking lots [Soldier Field] were soooo busy and they didn't have anyone available to help me get into the car where my purse was. I went to Security -- I don't remember his name. He told me that this person **Robert Gray** did all sorts of things and he felt certain he could help me ...

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU.

It would have been so easy to say, "It's not our job"... "it's not our responsibility" .... "call a locksmith" ... "call AAA." This man helped us get into our car and I think he should ... be acknowledged for doing the best he could for us. I will never forget how friendly Chicago people are. But more than that, it was an example of someone going out of their way to help another whether it was "their job" or NOT!

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, December 9, 1997 was delivered by Susana Magallón, doctoral candidate, University of Chicago Department of Geophysical Sciences. Susana discussed the results of her recent studies of phylogenetic analyses of flowering plant diversification. She assembled data sets from more than 200 studies of variable taxonomic composition and variable character sets assessing angiosperm phylogeny. She sought to extract the most recurrent pattern(s) from the total data array. She found support for the major groups of angiosperms with divisions between the monocots and eudicots, as well as five monophyletic groups within the eudicots. Significant difficulties were encountered integrating the different types of data for respectively heterogeneous taxa. She also sought patterns from fossil and extant taxa with respect to levels of species diversity and earliest appearance. She found species diversity to be quite heterogeneous. The dicot groups Fabaceae, Asteraceae and Rubiaceae contain major blocks of diversity and are relatively young, their earliest fossils being of late paleocene (57 mybp), Oligocene (25mybp) and Eocene (47mybp) age respectively. The most basal groups, Platanaceae, Buxaceae and Hamamelidoideae comprise relatively few species and have the earliest representation in the fossil record, occurring in the Albian (100mybp) or Campanian (87mybp).

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

UPDATES FROM ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Through the leadership of Environmental Educator in Residence **Carol Fialkowski** (ECP), two education publications focused on teaching about local biodiversity have recently been developed. In partnership with the Chicago Tribune a fourteen-page education supplement entitled *Chicago Land Eco-System: You Can Change the Map* has been provided to more than 600 teachers and 111,000 students in the six county area. Teachers are provided with the Chicago Wilderness Atlas, poster and an activity guide for each student. With 500 teachers on the waiting list for next spring, this has become the most popular program in the Tribune's Newspapers in the Classroom Program.

A second publication *Tools for Teaching Biodiversity: Content, Teaching Methods and Research* is the result of the very successful Chicago Wilderness Educator's Conference held last February. These conference proceedings contain both content summaries and teaching activities for the eight topics covered in the conference and a resource rich series of appendices for reference. Information on either of these publications is available by calling **Carol Fialkowski** (x629).

The Field Museum is also involved in biodiversity education on a national scale. Carol is serving on the planning team for the environmental education biodiversity summit that will be held in June of 1998. Carol is helping the World Wildlife Fund, the Biodiversity Project and the American Museum of Natural History develop the agenda and direction for the two day working meeting. The outcome will provide a "road map" for future efforts in biodiversity education in the United States. The sixty invited participants will include biodiversity educators, scientists, funders and government policy directors.

ZOOLOGY NEWS

Associate Curator and Chair **Rüdiger Bieler** (Zoology), who already serves on the editorial boards of several national and international zoological journals, has recently been invited to join the boards of two overseas malacological serial publications: The journal of the malacological society of Spain, *Iberus,* and the Japanese *The Yuriyagai.*

FIRE *-- NOT* in the Museum! Please notify the Facilities & Planning Office (x380) of the location of any fire extinguisher that is not hung, is empty, has a broken seal or does not have a 1997 tag. Thanks.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

STAFF MOVIE QUESTIONNAIRE

Here are the categories:

Comedy	Action	Drama
The Nutty Professor	Die Hard with a Vengeance	The Outsiders
Tommy Boy	Batman and Robin	Phenomenon
Grumpier Old Men	Escape From L.A.	Legends of the Fall
The Blues Brothers		Fargo
Raising Arizona	Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade	Jerry Maguire
The Truth About Cats and Dogs	The Long Kiss Goodnight	Apollo 13
Liar Liar	Jurassic Park	Medicine Man
Bull Durham	The Rock	
Tin Cup	The Abyss	
Dumb and Dumber	Alien	
Weird Science	The Ghost and the Darkness	

__ **I WOULD** ATTEND MOVIE NIGHT

__ **I WOULD NOT** ATTEND MOVIE NIGHT

Please **return questionnaire to Randy Scalf** in Membership.